



**Nathan Deal**  
Governor

**Bobby Cagle, MSW**  
Commissioner

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Bright from the Start offering Pre-K Summer Transition Program**

*Program targets rising Kindergarten students who did not attend  
Pre-K or need additional support*

**ATLANTA, Ga., (March 13, 2014)** – For the fifth year in a row, Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) will offer a six-week Summer Transition Program (STP) for rising kindergartners who either did not attend Georgia’s Pre-K or Head Start, or attended but need additional support to be ready for Kindergarten next Fall. The program is targeted for children whose families are eligible for Georgia’s Child and Parent Services (CAPS).

“The goal of Georgia’s Pre-K Program is to prepare four year olds to successfully enter Kindergarten, but some students either miss that opportunity or need additional help,” said DECAL Commissioner Bobby Cagle. “It is our teachers and providers that make this program successful, and we appreciate their cooperation in once again joining us in offering classes this summer.”

“This is a great opportunity for these young students to build their skills and confidence before moving into kindergarten,” added Susan Adams, assistant commissioner for Georgia’s Pre-K. Adams said the six-week high quality instructional program is proposed to begin on Monday, June 2, 2014. All applicants must be a current Georgia’s Pre-K provider in good standing with Pre-K and in compliance with CAPS, Child Care Licensing, and Nutrition, as applicable.

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Applications will be made available statewide, however, priority will be given in the following targeted counties: Baker, Ben Hill, Bibb, Burke, Calhoun, Charlton, Clayton, DeKalb, Dooly, Dougherty, Echols, Emanuel, Fulton, Hancock, Hart, Jefferson, Jenkins, Macon, Quitman, Randolph, Richmond, Screven, Talbot, Taliaferro, Telfair, and Twiggs.

Applications will be released on **March 13, 2014** and will be due by 5:00 PM on **March 31, 2014**. Locations will be announced in late April.

Summer 2014 will be the fifth year DECAL has offered the STP. Each year the program has been evaluated by independent researchers, and results have indicated strong impacts for the children served—especially in crucial language and literacy skills.

A recent report by national experts in early childhood education and care concluded that Georgia's Pre-K Program significantly improves school readiness skills in language, literacy and math.

For more information about Summer Transition, please visit the website at <http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/Prek/SummerTransitionProgram.aspx>. You can also email [summerschool@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:summerschool@dec.al.ga.gov) if you have additional questions.

### **About Bright from the Start**

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to [www.dec.al.ga.gov](http://www.dec.al.ga.gov).